

What is claimed is:

1. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration and an associated vbv\_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated  
5 vbv\_delay comprising:
  - (a) manipulating the commercial slot vbv\_delay between one of a minimum delay and a maximum delay,
  - (b) outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for at least a portion of the network time slot duration,
  - 10 (c) determining the number of pictures remaining from one of a stored portion of the incoming network feed and the commercial slot and adjusting the output rate as required to output the commercial slot, and
  - (d) adjusting one of the vbv\_delay of stored network feed and the vbv\_delay of the local commercial slot to match the vbv\_delay of the incoming network feed.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 comprising manipulating the commercial slot vbv\_delay for a maximum delay.
3. The method of claim 2 comprising outputting pictures from the compressed  
20 commercial slot for the network time slot duration.
4. The method of claim 3 comprising outputting any remaining pictures from the commercial slot by, storing at least a portion of the incoming network feed, outputting the remaining pictures at an increased output rate and then outputting the stored portion  
25 of the network feed and adjusting network time slot vbv\_delay until the vbv\_delay of stored network feed matches the vbv\_delay of the incoming network feed.
5. The method of claim of claim 2 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is manipulated to have a 30.5 second duration.
- 30 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and wherein the stored

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portion of the network feed is at least as large as the difference between the 30.5 seconds and the network time slot duration.

7. The method of claim 1 comprising manipulating the commercial slot vbv\_delay for a minimum delay.

8. The method of claim 7 comprising outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for at least a portion of the network time slot duration.

9. The method of claim 8 comprising determining the number of pictures remaining from the commercial slot and adjusting the output rate as required to complete the network time slot duration, and adjusting the local commercial slot vbv\_delay to match the vbv\_delay of the incoming network feed.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is manipulated to have a 29.5 second duration.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and the compressed commercial slot is output for 29 seconds such that 15 pictures remain from the commercial slot, wherein the output rate of the 15 remaining pictures is determined based on the difference between the network time slot duration and 29.5 seconds.

12. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration and an associated vbv\_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated vbv\_delay comprising:

- (a) manipulating the commercial slot vbv\_delay for a maximum delay,
- (b) outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for the network time slot duration, and
- (c) outputting any remaining pictures from the commercial slot by, storing at least a portion of the incoming network feed, outputting the remaining pictures at an increased output rate and then outputting the stored network feed and adjusting network time slot

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vbv\_delay until the vbv\_delay of stored network feed matches the vbv\_delay of the incoming network feed.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is  
5 manipulated to have a 30.5 second duration.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode  
Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and wherein the stored  
portion of the network feed is at least as large as the difference between the 30.5 seconds  
10 and the network time slot duration.

15. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration  
and an associated vbv\_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated  
vbv\_delay comprising:

15 (a) manipulating the commercial slot vbv\_delay for a minimum delay,  
(b) outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for at least a portion of the  
network time slot duration, and  
(c) determining the number of pictures remaining from the commercial slot and adjusting  
the output rate as required to complete the network time slot duration, and adjusting the  
20 local commercial slot vbv\_delay to match the vbv\_delay of the incoming network feed.

16. The method of claim of claim 15 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is  
manipulated to have a 29.5 second duration.

25 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a  
Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and the compressed  
commercial slot is output for 29 seconds such that 15 pictures remain from the  
commercial slot, wherein the output rate of the 15 remaining pictures is determined  
based on the difference between the network time slot duration and 29.5 seconds.

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18. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration  
and an associated vbv\_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated  
vbv\_delay comprising:

- (a) storing and delaying at least a portion of the incoming network feed,
- (b) determining the network time slot duration based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance,
- (c) manipulating the commercial slot vbv\_delay so that the commercial slot duration
- 5 substantially matches the network time slot duration, and
- (d) outputting the incoming network feed after completion of the network time slot duration.

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